

Fiscal Flyer

CFMA-Issue 14

March 2006

MAKING YOUR LUNCH RESERVATIONS

Your **lunch reservations** should be made using the Internet. Visit the CFMA luncheons web page (see link below) and click on the "Place Setting." You can register each month or sign up for all the lunches in one visit. Please register by 12 PM on the Wednesday before the lunch. If you need to cancel after you register, please email Dottie Relaford before noon on the Wednesday before the lunch. dottie.relaford@state.co.us.
<http://www.state.co.us/cfma/Luncheons/lunch.htm>



March Luncheon

Place: **Beef Palace** – Serving BBQ Beef & Chicken
Entree

Time: March 2, 2006 11:45am -1:30pm

Speaker: Ms. Angelica Docog, Colo Historical Society

President's Corner By *Mindy Densmore*

Hello – It is almost March – hard to believe that we are more than halfway through the fiscal year! Spring is a busy time for CFMA – the scholarship fund raising bowlathon, the spring conference, fiscal award nominations and scholarship awards are in the planning stages – look for information in this newsletter about these important events.

Cindy Howe is our current chair for the Bowlathon and would like to work with someone during the current fundraiser as well as next year in order to provide a smooth transition to new leadership. Let Cindy know if you are interested in learning more about this fundraiser and would like to help – cindy.howe@dora.state.co.us.

The legislature is also in session and staying very busy. If you are not already aware, there are several bills out there that affect PERA benefits and the structure of the PERA Board. We encourage you to stay informed on this proposed legislation that affects all state employees. If you would like more information – the PERA legislative link is <http://www.copera.org/PERA/about/legislation/2006legislation.stm>.

CFMA has a great group of dedicated volunteers for both the board and various committees. We anticipate some vacancies next year (starting in September) – our current Vice-President, **Mary Pearce**, has included a list of committee vacancies for next year – let any board member know if you are interested or have any questions. It is very rewarding to give back to the fiscal community in this way (plus you get free lunches!)

Our speaker at our March 2 luncheon is **Angelica Docog** from the Interpretive Services branch of the Colorado Historical Society. Thanks to **Mike Willihnganz** and **Susan Riehl** for their work to arrange this month's presentation. As always, this should be an interesting and dynamic presentation.

Also, CFMA member, **Raj Jain** is currently on active military duty and is in training prior to deployment. If you would like to send a note to Raj, his current email address is heenajain123@hotmail.com.

Thanks again to all of you for your support, comments and suggestions. I hope to see you on March 2.



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The Bean Counter's Underground Press

By Alan Boisvert

The Governor's race begins to heat up with primaries for both major parties. Speculation was thriving as to whether Denver Mayor Hickenlooper would run on the Democratic ticket. A couple of weeks ago Peter Boyle asked the panel on Colorado Inside Out "Would the Mayor run?" Some thought he would, but Bob Ewegen of the Denver Post said definitely not, "Because local government is much more fun than state government."

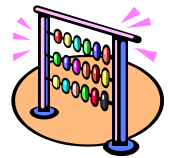
That got a laugh out of me because it was so true. Now that I have spent 6 months in local government, and thinking back on my 30 years in state government, I now realize how totally boring it was. I started in the Lamm Administration, 12 years, then the Romer Administration, 12 years, and I would have finished in the Owens Administration, 8 years. Oh yeah, the Executive Directors would change even when the administrations did not but for the most part they were benign changes.

Just in my six months here we have fired three IT managers, the County Administrator has left, Accounting and Budget are merging, my department was sliced into three parts, the pension plan was revamped, we are starting a major compensation study, mirrors were added to the workout room, Road and Bridge wants to start on the modified approach, I've been appointed to the audit committee for Arapahoe County, and my property taxes are being withheld by the State Auditor because my auditor can't seem to find my opinion.

If Jeffco is this much fun I can only imagine what a great time being Mayor of Denver must be. I can see Bill staring out of his Capitol office across Civic Center Park at the Mayor's third floor office and wishing he could go over there and play. John has an airport, he's got fire trucks, he's got a slew of police cars that go fast and you can ram them into the bad guys car, he's got football, baseball, basketball, hockey, soccer, and the thing with the ball and the wicker baskets. He's got street sweepers, and tons of dump trucks he can play with. When he walks out of his office he gets to see bad guys waddling down the hall with chains on their hands and feet, followed by sharply dressed lawyers with big smiles on their faces.

Governor Bill doesn't have the world just outside his door. If he wants to see the bad guys he has to drive for two hours to his local prison or attend a Democratic caucus meeting. I get to see them all the time tending to the rose gardens and mowing the lawns whenever I leave the building for a jog, inmates not democrats. I can understand why someone trapped in state government for years would think a Federal office would be cool. They probably think it couldn't be near as boring as state offices. I'll bet they are totally wrong. I'll wager anyone that if you asked Ken Salazar he would say, graciously of course, that the Senate is not near the fun the AG's office was.

However, I don't think Bill or Ken have any clue how great local government office is. You can be Assessor till your limited term is up, then you can be County Commissioner for eight years, then you can be Dog Catcher for two years and run for Coroner after that. They're all fun, as long as you stay away from IT Director. Sure, Joan and Andrew, they can be fun to be around occasionally, but you can't beat a good heated discussion about 700 foot tall digital towers with your neighbors. I think the Mayor will stay put for a while, and I definitely see why Bob Beauprez wants out of Washington, booooring. So Bill, think about running for County Surveyor? Great way to get some dirt under your fingernails. You'll love it.



"The opinions expressed here are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the opinion of the Colorado Fiscal Managers Association, its Board, or its members."

Opinions Optional

Opinions Optional

By Mike Willihnganz

"Accountability" not "accounts ability." The latter being able to balance your checkbook and avoid overdrafts or balance your general ledger and grant funds - that's not what I'm concerned about, even though I'm writing to a bunch of bean counters.

It's the former, "accountability" that has me, as should you, concerned. I was just reading in the local paper an editorial on how the Homeland Security chief took responsibility for the Katrina debacle; how Janet Reno was accountable for the Waco, Texas massacre. Of course, neither of these individuals were fired (even though "Brownie, you're doing a good job" was the fall guy for FEMA) nor disciplined. I won't even get into VP Cheney's shooting accident since I haven't seen his TV interview.

What about "accountability" on the State level? A key topic has been the fallout of several State and federally funded computer programs that are plodding along or are being re-examined after millions of dollars have been spent. CBMS cost over \$200 million dollars back in 2004 and tens of millions more are being spent every year since to possibly get it functioning up to speed. The 90's issue of the DOR tax system upgrades still festers in the minds of many. How much did that cost the taxpayers? And the more current debacles of the Unemployment Insurance SUPER System (> \$20 million) and the Secretary of State's voter registration program (a mere one million dollars) are now being reconciled this year.

So who is/was "accountable" for these projects' failures? What action is or did take place to acknowledge who's responsible for the monies spent on these unsuccessful projects? Where was the cabinet-level OIT committee during these projects? What has become of the key personnel of these respective State departments? Why doesn't the JBC ask the tough questions to the right individuals?

I'm not throwing these questions out because I/we don't know - we all pretty much do know. It's just a shame that our State constituents (and for us as taxpayers) have to see the wasted millions go down the proverbial toilet while no one is held accountable and even rewarded after a major failure.

Yes, Les Shenefelt told us that a small percentage of major computer projects (both private and public sector) ever succeed. No, we do not hear of the private sector failures since their write-offs are buried in their corporate financial statements, whether they're privately or publicly held companies. But I'd be willing to bet (oops, that's illegal) guess that in the private sector, someone is held accountable for those multi-million dollar failures and that those individuals are not promoted and/or transferred without recourse.

But hey, that's the private sector. We're the State; we're government. We do things different - not better. Let's go back to "accounts ability."

This was my last o o - I'll keep the rest to myself. Thanks for reading.

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The Controller's Corner

By the Field Accounting Services Team, State Controller's Office

NEW!!



What's Happening?

New Staff on FAST

The State Controller's Office (SCO) welcomes two new staff members. Susan Meade, formerly of CDLE and Tom Gamache, previously of CDLE & CDHS have joined the Field Accounting Services Team (FAST). Together they bring over 30 years of state experience to our office. New agency assignments will be effective on March 1, 2006 and are attached to Alert #164, which can be accessed at <http://www.colorado.gov/dpa/dfp/sco/alerts.htm>. Please join us in welcoming Susan and Tom. We are glad to have them and you will be too!

Supplemental Bills

Draft Supplemental bills are out on the legislative website. If you are expecting a supplemental appropriation, get a head start and check them out. The bill numbers range from HB 06-1213 – 1235. If your agency has a new line, check with your FAST specialist for COFRS coding.

CCCAS Turnaround Forms

It's almost that time of the year again. Dottie will be diligently analyzing all capital construction projects and sending out the Continuing Capital Construction Appropriation Status (CCCAS) forms to agencies sometime in March.

Open FY07/Close FY06 Training

Open/Close training is being planned at this time. The dates for the training are:
General Open/Close – Tuesday, April 4
Higher Ed Open/Close – Friday, April 6
Open/Close for New Employees – Friday, April 28
For details check out *Alert # 164* and stay tuned to the SCO training page which can be accessed at: <http://www.colorado.gov/dpa/dfp/sco/traininginfo.htm>



Tips and Hints

PHISH - commit fraud to get financial information

Phishing is the latest crime of the 21st century. Understanding the techniques and technologies phishers use can help you protect against them. Here are ways to protect yourself:

- As a general rule, never e-mail personal or financial information.
- Never respond to requests for personal information in e-mails. Banks, the IRS and legitimate businesses never ask for such information through e-mail. If you are tempted to respond, call the company instead.
- If you initiate a transaction that calls for personal or financial information, confirm that the Web site is secure by checking for a lock icon on the browser's status bar or a URL that begins https (the *s* stands for *secure*) instead of http.
- Be aware that phishers are able to forge a security icon only when they initiate an e-mail, which is why you never should reveal information in response to a received e-mail.
- Check credit card and bank statements as soon as you receive them for any unauthorized charges. If your statement is late by more than a couple of days, call the company or bank to confirm your billing address and account balances.
- Use antivirus software and keep it current. Use a firewall if you have a broadband connection.
- Report suspected abuses to the antiphishing network authorities at report-phishing@antiphishing.org and to the company that is being spoofed. If you suspect your personal information has been compromised or stolen, be sure to promptly contact the Federal Trade Commission and the identity theft Web site at www.consumer.gov/idtheft.

These tips were featured in the February 2006 issue of the Journal of Accountancy.

NEW!!

The **F**ourth Branch



NATIONAL CHAMPIONS!!!!!!



Fort Lewis College (FLC) won the 2005 NCAA men's soccer Division II championship. The No. 1 ranked team beat Franklin Pierce College 3-1 in Wichita Falls, Texas on December 4, 2005. This was the first NCAA national championship for FLC and a perfect ending to an undefeated season. Congratulations to the Fort Lewis Skyhawks!

Higher Education Open/Close Meeting

The Open/Close meeting for Higher Education is scheduled for Friday, April 7 from 1:00-4:00. It will be held at the Auraria Campus room AU-008, located at the back of the Library in the Media Center. A campus map may be found at: <http://www.ahec.edu/parking>. Video conferencing is also available. To request video access, please contact Jinous Lari at 303/556-3030.

The meeting will include a review of changes to the Fiscal Procedures Manual and Exhibits. David McDermott will provide guidance on completing Exhibit A2 for those institutions designated as enterprises in fiscal year 2006. He will also discuss the impacts of GASB 44 – Accounting and Financial Reporting for Impairment of Capital Assets; GASB 46 – Net Assets Restricted by Enabling Legislation; and GASB 47 – Accounting for Termination Benefits.

In addition, Karoline Clark will provide training on the COFRS Data Warehouse. If you have specific queries you would like demonstrated or questions related to the Data Warehouse and the Open/Close meeting, please email them to Vicki Nichol at



WHO WAS TIM SMITH?



For those of you who are not familiar with the history of the CFMA bowlathon, it is an annual event to help raise funds for the Tim Smith Memorial Scholarship Fund. This fund named after Tim Smith, one of the original leaders of CFMA. **Brent Voge** offers this insight into our former colleague:

"Most of you may not know who Tim Smith was. I had the opportunity to work closely with Tim at the Lottery when I was just starting my career. He was the Deputy Director of the Lottery when it started in 1983. He had worked for the State for nearly 30 years, and was in his early 50's when he died in 1985. I still remember the morning we were called into the conference room and told of his death. It was quite a shock. He had a heart attack while returning to his home in Denver, after spending the day at the Lottery offices in Pueblo. He left a wife and 2 daughters. Tim was instrumental in the establishment and organization of the Colorado Fiscal Managers' Association in the 1970's. A scholarship in his name was started in late 1980's."

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Tim Smith Memorial Scholarship Fund. Thanks to all of you for your participation and support.



Form a team! Pick a captain! Seek pledges!

The 20th CFMA Bowl-A-Thon to raise funds for the Tim Smith Memorial Scholarship Program will be held on **Saturday, April 22, 2006** from 10:00 – 12:30 at Sierra Vista Lanes in Wheat Ridge. It's an anniversary year, so let's make it the best one ever! Again this year, we were able to reserve a date that did not land before or after Spring Break weeks, or during Easter weekend. Also, this year we have scheduled the event an hour earlier in order to be finished by mid-day. We hope that this will allow for more people to participate and teams to be formed.

A pledge form and a team registration form are being placed on the CFMA web site. Please submit your team registration forms to Cindy Howe before Monday, April 3rd. If you have any questions, please contact Cindy at 303-894-2971.

As in past years, bowling is free for each participant with a minimum of \$30 in pledges or donations. Let's each of us strive to increase the amount of pledges we solicit from our members, coworkers, families, and friends in order to exceed that minimum.

Please make a note, and plan accordingly; **this year's theme is "Earth Day"** because April 22, 2006 is "Earth Day". During the event, the committee votes on the "theme team" and presents that team with a prize; so, get creative! In addition, again this year, cash prizes will be awarded to the top three fundraisers and the top three highest three-game bowling scores; and, the CFMA bowling trophy will go to the top team fundraisers.

Please plan to come and join the fun! See you there!

2005 - 2006

OFFICERS

President	Mindy Densmore
Vice President	Mary Pearce
Secretary	Lavynia Washington
Treasurer	Tammy Lobato

E-MAIL ADDRESS FOR THE OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS CAN BE FOUND ON THE CFMA WEBSITE:

[HTTP://WWW.STATE.CO.US/CFMA/HOME.HTM](http://www.state.co.us/cfma/home.htm)

"Attend three CFMA luncheons this year and get the 4th lunch free!" – CFMA Board

CFMA's very popular buy three get one free lunch program is in place for the upcoming year. If you attend all eight lunches this year, CFMA will pay for two of them. To assist in the record Keeping process, please register each month using the Web site registration and be sure to use the same name. For example, Roger Cusworth and Roger A Cusworth are treated as two people in the database used to track free lunches. You also need to be sure you check in each time you attend a luncheon.

In case you are wondering, your attendance from last year does not carry over to this year.

**2006 CFMA/CIMA/CSMA
SPRING CONFERENCE**

"Investing In Our Future: People, Programs and Performance"

will be held on

Wednesday, May 17, 2006 - Friday, May 19, 2006

at The Sheraton and The Grand Hotels - Steamboat Springs, CO

The spring conference website should be open for registration before the end of March – we will send the membership an email as soon as it is available.

To accommodate drive time, the first general session will begin at 1:30 on May 17 and the conference will end with lunch from 12:30 to 1:30 on May 19.

The registration fees for early registration (by May 1) will be \$95 for the entire conference or \$75 for one day. Meals are included in the registration fee. Hotel accommodations are not included.

To obtain information on hotel rates click the conference link below:

<http://www.state.co.us/cima/2006Spring/Spring2005.htm>

The agenda is in the process of being finalized. From a fiscal perspective, we will have presentations on identity theft, forensic accounting and internal controls. There will also be a PERA update as well as other management development presentations including one on succession planning. The agenda will be available at the registration website.

Plan on attending this educational opportunity – the cost is low and the educational benefits are worthwhile! Again, we will let you know when the registration site is available.



Officer Nominations

If you are interested in serving on the board or as a chairperson or volunteer for one of our committees for the FY 06-07 fiscal year, please contact the current Vice President, Mary Pearce at mary.pearce@dora.state.co.us or 303-894-2967. Remember, volunteering is a great way to give back to the organization, network with fiscal leadership, and bring new ideas and vibrancy to CFMA.

A list of the committees can be found on the website by clicking Officers and Committees. We expect to have openings for our Secretary and our Lunch Program. A description of the duties of the Secretary can be found in the Association By-laws located on the CFMA website. The Lunch Program chairperson is responsible for recruiting and coordinating luncheon speakers. We need nominations to present for a vote at the June luncheon. We hope you will seriously consider getting involved in this way.



Common sense is instinct. Enough of it is genius.
~George Bernard Shaw